27 Sept 1892
p 5-1

The Wilkes Barre Record
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At $4.40

Ladies' Tailor Made Suits with Bell Skirt and Basque in Blue and Black Ladies' Cloth.

At $7.48

Ladies' Cloth Blazer Suits with Bell Skirts, nicely made and perfect fitting.

West Market Street

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THIS WEEK.

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n the line of Fall and Winter Dry
are certain to please you both in

CLOAK DEPARTMENT.

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PAST ANIMAL LIFE.

WIDE FIELDS OF SPECULATION AND INVESTIGATION.

Birds and Beasts That Are Now Extinct. Creatures That Have Served Their Purpose Should Not Be Mourned Because They Are No More.

Is it necessary to go into paroxysms of grief because certain animals are extinct, or as Mr. Frederic A. Lucas, of the United States National Museum, expresses it, are "threatened with extermination?" There are more men and fewer wild animals. Mankind does not interfere so much with the survival of the fittest as it hastens the destruction of the entire fauna. Formerly, as Mr. Lucas properly explains it, "through natural causes race after race of animals has disappeared from the globe. The extermination of species by nature is ordinarily slow, and the place of one is taken by another, while the destruction wrought by man is rapid, and the gaps he creates remain unfilled."

There was the great auk, an uncommonly fat and awkward bird, that positively said to hungry sailors, "Come, catch me, roast and eat me." Think of the godsend an Alca impensis must have been, not alone to primitive man, but to the early settlers of Maine or Labrador. When Cartier's hardy mariners landed off Funk island in 1534 they made glorious feastings on the great auk. Here were poor fellows, dying of scurvy, whose vital forces with every mouthful of great auk they swallowed. Are they to be begrudged because they "filled two boats full of birds as if they had been stones, so that, besides them which we did eat fresh, every ship did powder and salt five or six barrels of them."

Those Basque and other fishermen who crossed the stormy seas for cod depended on the luscious auk for their rations. The number of the birds must have been countless, because the auk was not a prolific breeder, laying only one egg at a time. Poor, stupid old bird, shaped by nature to become fat and heavy, to find its food so readily that it wanted no wings, and so was killed!

It might have lasted longer as a bird if it had not been for its feathers. Just as soon as it was a question of securing the Gare fowl's feathers, then it was indeed bound to disappear. Men went to their best breeding ground, which was Funk island, and slew auks by the millions. All that was done was to strip the birds of their skins, and their bodies were left to decay. Still the bird hung on as a rare avis up to 1840, and then it was no longer an inhabitant of the world any more than the dodo. Could any of Cartier's sailors have thought that a skeleton of a great auk, when offered for sale, would create the wildest excitement and be worth $600, or a skin fetch $650, or a fair eggshell $1,500?

When Columbus sought Copango and came across the West Indies his sailors found along the shores the seal known today as the Monachus tropicalis. A distinguished characteristic of this seal was that it placed little or no dependence on its hind flippers. Nature had overlooked or slighted their development. It was a seal without proper co-ordination of movement. When it wanted to go forward on the land it had to arch its back, something like a caterpil-

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TUESDAY MORNIN

September 27, 1892.

FOR ONE WEEK will be exhibi
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the worm changing to the moth, rare
silk producing worms from all parts
globe, vegetable silk, raw silk of all
and cocoons from all countries wher
worms are raised. You are request
call and examine the display.

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THIS WEEK.

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are certain to please you both in

CLOAK DEPARTMENT.

This is our main department.

We carry more coats. We show finer styles. We offer lower prices than any other house in the city. We are not exaggerating when we say we have the finest cloak room in the city. We are fully prepared this season to meet the demands in ladies' misses' and children's coats, as we are stocked with the largest line of coats we have ever carried. Our styles are our own. Ladies, before making your selection in coats visit our Cloak Department.

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OCTOBER 1, '92.

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VICE:

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r for the Fall Season

G BARGAINS we have ever placed our counters.

ERCOATS! OVERCOATS

ts, Children's Overcoats: Men' Heavy Dust n's Heavy Grey Cassimere Overcoats $6 and l wool Overcoats $7.50 and $10, and a thousand ion.

SUITS! SUITS!

, $7.50 and upwards. In our CHILDREN'S e most extraordinary bargains. Our Boys' what Johnny wants. They are all wool, seams ble suit for boys, $2.50 Suit, just think, $2.50

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When Columbus sought Copango and came across the West Indies his sailors found along the shores the seal known today as the Monachus tropicalis. A distinguished characteristic of this seal was that it placed little or no dependence on its hind flippers. Nature had overlooked or slighted their development. It was a seal without proper co-ordination of movement. When it wanted to go forward on the land it had to arch its back something like a caterpillar, and then after a prodigious effort its progress was less than a foot. Of course with the advent of man this West Indian was doomed.

The strange thing about this seal, so far as the collector is concerned, is this—although Monachus tropicalis was known to have existed for several centuries, not a single perfect specimen has fallen into the hands of the naturalists. Dampier in 1678 told of the abundance of these seals and wrote, "The Spaniards do often come hither (Yucatan) to make oyl of their fat." Sir Hans Sloan, who ten years after Dampier visited the Bahamas, wrote that those islands were filled with seals: "Sometimes fishers will catch 100 in a night. They kill them and bring off their oil for lamps on the island." Perhaps the last of these seals is existing today, for some were taken as late as 1886, but in ten years from now there will be no more of Monachus tropicalis. It has served its purpose.

In the Swamp, in New York city, that quarter devoted to leather, one may occasionally see two men lifting into a truck what looks like a heavy wooden plank, only of greater width than is cut from trees. The material is stiff and hard, and if you strike it you can appreciate how hard it is. It is walrus hide, used for buffing wheels, and it is about three inches thick. The walrus of the northern Pacific is being exterminated for its tusks, hide and oil. While whaling was profitable the walrus was passed over, but to-day it is too valuable. On the Atlantic side the chances of the walrus still existing are better, because it is much harder to get, but when the Pacific walrus becomes rare the Atlantic one will certainly be sought for.

[illegible] nothing is known today about the Rytina, or Arctic sea cow—the Rytina gigas. It was related to the manatee, or dugong, only it lived far north. It was a big creature, certainly twenty-five or thirty feet long, with a girth of from fifteen to twenty feet, and probably an adult would weigh four tons. It had a ridiculously small head and was toothless. Its skin was supposably tough, not thick, but hard enough to resist the edge of an ax. It was gregarious and lived at the mouths of rivers, pasturing on seaweed. When Behring (1741) was in Kamchatka he saved his crew from scurvy by taking sea cows. It was a creature so easy to kill that extermination soon took place.

On Copper island, where this sea cow was once plentiful, they had become rare in 1768. The last one was probably killed on Behring island in the last quarter of the Eighteenth century. Some years ago, at the instigation of the United States National museum, Dr. Stejneger visited Behring island in search of sea cow skeletons and was fortunate enough to find skulls, ribs and other bones, and so today No. 21,[illegible] of the catalogue of the National museum stands for the skeleton of the sea cow.

So much notoriety has been given to the dodo that it is scarcely necessary to give more than a passing notice to Didus ineptus. We generally accept Pisa's picture of the dodo, but the configuration given it by Savery in the Seventeenth century comes nearer to what ornithologists believe to have been the true shape. The probability is that after all the dodo was not a good bird to eat. In 1638, though it had been fairly abundant in Madagascar, Mauritius, Bourbon and Rodrigues, it was extinct. The dodo owes its reputation to the wonderful work done by Owen, who reconstructed a bird with a few bones.—New York Times.

FOWLER, DICK & WALKER.

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A Severe Lesson.

A few evenings since a fashionably dressed young couple occupied a box at one of the down town theaters. Those who were acquainted with them knew the day set for their marriage was but two weeks distant. All the arrangements for the event had been perfected—the lovers looked forward with joyful anticipation. "Happy couple. Seem to be especially adapted to each other," was the verdict of their set, while rejected suitors envied their rival's success. Soon after they had entered the box the young lady was seen to hold her programme in a peculiar manner, at the same time casting sly glances toward a certain portion of the parquet.

Following the direction of her glance one soon discovered a neatly dressed young man of attractive appearance who was answering her glance and imitating every move of her artfully handled programme. The flirtation had become quite animated during the first act, while the prospective groom appeared in blissful ignorance of what was transpiring. At the end of the act he rose, and excusing himself left the box. What was the surprise of his affianced to see him pass a moment later through the parquet and to the young man with whom she had carried on the flirtation. He tapped the young man on the shoulder and said:

"Are you acquainted with the young lady you have been flirting with?"

"Sir," answered the other, with an affectation of surprise and injured pride, "I have flirted with no one. To whom do you refer?"

"No nonsense. You know. To avoid further trouble follow me."

Seeming to think it useless to parley, the masher obeyed, and on the way out the injured fiance ascertained his name. Proceeding directly to the box in which sat the now astounded young woman, he introduced her abashed admirer politely as follows:

"Miss B——, this is Mr. L——, with whom you have been spending your evening. He will continue to entertain you until after the play, when he will escort you home. Hoping you may enjoy yourselves together, I beg to be excused. Good evening."

With a graceful bow he left the blushing and thoroughly shamed couple, who had been anxiously wondering what the outcome would be. It is understood that the ceremony has been indefinitely postponed.—Chicago News.

Mr. Jolliffe's Red, White and Blue Horse.

Ambrose Jolliffe, the Hesterville livery stable keeper, has what is probably the most remarkable horse in the United States, and his one sorrow is that the park commissioners will not permit the animal to be driven through their beautiful domain. The horse is a middle aged, well proportioned Kentucky gelding about 8

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